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|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                               | 10/604,075             | BRUFORD ET AL.      |  |
|                               | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                               | Patricia L Engle       | 3612                |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed on June 25, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>6/25/03</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                              | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please re-write claim 5 as follows-

5. An automotive closure panel according to Claim 4, wherein said anchoring member is affixed to a portion of said first hinge bearing retainer.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this application is that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest an automotive closure panel including a full floating torsion bar hving a first end rotationally grounded within the interior space of the door and a second engaged with and rotationally locked with the second bearing insert wherein the second bearing insert is engaged with the second pivot post such that the pivot post and the second bearing insert are rotationally locked. Westerdale et al. disclose an automotive tailgate with a full floating torsion bar. However, Westerdale et al. do not disclose a second pivot post or that the second end of the full floating torsion bar is rotationally locked with the second bearing insert.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 3612

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

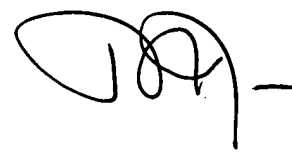
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia L Engle whose telephone number is (703) 306-5777. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, D. Glenn Dayoan can be reached on (703) 308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patricia L Engle  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3612

ple  
February 13, 2004



2/17/04

D. GLENN DAYOAN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

|  |  |  |  |                              |  |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|--|
| (3/50)<br><br>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT<br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>203-0125   |  | SERIAL NO.<br>To be assigned |  |
|  |  | APPLICANTS<br>Stephen Lewis Bruford, Jeffrey Alan Firzlaff, Scott G. Miller and Ed Rybarczyk |  |                              |  |
|  |  | FILING DATE<br>Herewith  |  | GROUP<br>To be assigned      |  |

| U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                 |            |               |       |          |                              |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|-------|----------|------------------------------|
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL    | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE       | NAME          | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF<br>APPLICABLE |
| PSE                    | 1. 2,984,517    | 1961/05/16 | Farrow et al  |       |          |                              |
| PSE                    | 2. 3,031,225    | 1962/04/24 | Saffer et al  |       |          |                              |
| PSE                    | 3. 3,336,070    | 1967/08/15 | Jackson       |       |          |                              |
| PSE                    | 4. 4,143,904    | 1979/03/13 | Copper et al  | 296   |          |                              |
| PSE                    | 5. 5,358,301    | 1994/10/25 | Konchan et al | 296   |          |                              |
| PSE                    | 6. 5,988,724    | 1999/11/23 | Wolda         | 296   |          |                              |
|                        | 7.              |            |               |       |          |                              |
|                        | 8.              |            |               |       |          |                              |
|                        | 9.              |            |               |       |          |                              |
|                        | 10.             |            |               |       |          |                              |
|                        | 11.             |            |               |       |          |                              |
|                        | 12.             |            |               |       |          |                              |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |      |         |       |          |                       |  |
|--------------------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------------|--|
| DOCUMENT NUMBER          | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION<br>Yes No |  |
| 1.                       |      |         |       |          |                       |  |
| 2.                       |      |         |       |          |                       |  |

| OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |  |
|--|--|
| 1.   |  |

|                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| EXAMINER<br><i>Patricia Engle</i> | DATE CONSIDERED<br>Feb. 12, 2004 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citations in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

AA011104502.1  
IDJURDR